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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE CENTURY CLUB, NEW YORK CITY,
NOVEMBER 24, 1916.

The designs for the proposed new Key Bridge to replace the old Aqueduct Bridge across the Potomac at Georgetown had reached such a stage as a result of the conferences between Colonel Flagler and his architect and the Commission of Fine Arts as to be ready to be submitted to the Commission as final drawings. In view of the need of quick action on these designs in order not to delay the beginning of work on the construction of the bridge, and because no meeting of the Commission in Washington was to be held in the near future, the Chairman appointed the three architect members of the Commission, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Kendall and Mr. Platt, and Mr. Olmsted, landscape architect member, a committee whom Colonel Flagler, in charge of the Bridge project, should consult. A meeting between Colonel Flagler and this committee was arranged for 2 P.M. November 24, 1916, at the Century Club, New York City. All members of the committee were present. The Chairman attended ex-officio, and Colonel Harts, the Secretary, and Mr. Cammerer, the Clerk to the Commission, also attended for the purpose of bringing supplementary data for the committee's use and recording the meeting. Mr. Adams and Mr. Weir, who were a committee on another matter, also appeared in consultation and were present throughout the entire session.

KEY BRIDGE DESIGNS.

Two alternative designs were shown, the main difference in the appearance being that one had arches in the superstructure while the other had square openings. These plans were dated November 17, 1916. Colonel Flagler stated that these plans were submitted in order to procure a definitely satisfactory plan for the preparation of estimates and to accompany such estimates to Congress.

He wanted to have the committee frankly make all suggestions they considered desirable and requested that it could be arranged that Mr. Wyeth could follow out these suggestions without referring the matter back to the Commission for approval. The main arches to span the river showed parabolic curves. After some discussion as to whether in this case a parabolic arch or segmental arch was more beautiful, it was agreed that the nearer the arches approached the segmental the better. Colonel Flagler said that to do the mathematically correct thing in the arches would bring them somewhere between the parabolic and the segmental and the committee expressed their pleasure that the move was in the direction of the segmental curve. Between the arches and the square openings shown in the design for the superstructure the committee recommended the adoption of the square openings. They further believed that the proportions of the motive on the sides of the pier, shown in the design with the arches in the superstructure, were the best but they pointed out to Mr. Wyeth the desirability of making the architectural motive somewhat higher. They thought the plan shown for treating the openings in the bridge from M Street and the Canal was satisfactory but made the suggestion later on that if both these arches were made flat or flat segmental it would improve the design.

Mr. Olmsted and the other members were not satisfied with the plaza treatment indicated for the Georgetown side of the structure and felt that with the conspicuously unsymmetrical grades there something better should be produced. It was suggested that the monument shown should be placed above the elevation of both streets and the members worked out some of their suggestions in pencil on the plans submitted for the assistance of Mr. Wyeth. Colonel Flagler said that these suggestions would be embodied at the same time the suggestions of the committee as to the main design of the bridge were worked out; but that

these approaches could be handled in a separate contract. It was urged that a model be built showing the treatment of that plaza in order to study the problem better. The understanding was that the whole plan when modified according to the suggestions of the committee regarding the bridge proper would be approved by Colonel Harts for the Commission. Colonel Flagler stated that if in the future it shall be desired to make any changes in the design of the bridge even after the approval of the Commission had been given he would be glad to take the matter up anew with the Secretary of War.

The Committee voted confidence in the architect and authorized Colonel Harts to approve the revised designs for the bridge and approaches (based upon the suggestions made at this meeting to Mr. Wyeth and Colonel Flagler) upon presentation by Mr. Wyeth and Colonel Flagler that the architectural details as submitted to Colonel Harts in the revised design were in accordance with the committee's recommendations and met with the full approval of the architect. The committee thereupon adjourned and a number of other problems were informally discussed.

TALLAPOOSA, ALABAMA, MONUMENT.

Mr. Adams to whom had been referred questions with regard to the design of the Tallapoosa, Alabama, monument brought up the question of a revision of the inscriptions proposed by the War Department for that monument which had been held over from the last meeting of the Commission in Washington. The inscription proposed by the War Department ran:

"In memory and honor of the brave men under
General Andrew Jackson who defeated
and broke the power of the Creek
Indians under Menawa on this
spot March 29, 1814."

The revision which was approved is as follows:

"Erected by the Congress of the United States on
Horseshoe Battleground. Here General Andrew Jackson and
his brave men broke the power of the Creek Indians
under Chief Menawa, March 29, 1814."

The complete report has been attached as exhibit A to the minutes of October 6, 1916.

INSCRIPTION FOR THE GRANT MONUMENT.

Mr. Moore brought up for discussion the matter of the desirability of a change in the inscription proposed for the Grant Memorial. Some years ago this inscription prepared under the direction of General Grenville M. Dodge, who was then Chairman of the Grant Memorial Commission but has since died, was laid before the Commission of Fine Arts, after it had been arranged by the architect and sculptor, for an expression of an opinion. The Commission did not like the long wording at that time, but inasmuch as this question was not before them they limited their advice to recommendations for the reblocking of the inscription. The rearranged inscription was later submitted to and approved by the Commission. It was thereupon approved by the Grant Memorial Commission and forwarded to the architect as the approved inscription to be placed on the monument. Recently Mr. Shrady and Mr. Casey, respectively the sculptor and architect for the monument, had stated their dissatisfaction with this inscription. Senator Root, who always had been greatly interested in this memorial, also thought it was too long and suggested the use of merely the word "GRANT", in which Senator Wetmore, formerly chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, it is understood concurred. The members considered this matter and unanimously agreed that no inscription whatever should be placed upon the Grant Memorial; and asked Colonel Hart to take this matter up anew with the members of the Grant Memorial Commission. The matter has been taken up.

ARLINGTON HOTEL.

Colonel Harts recalled to the members that some years ago when the project for a new Arlington Hotel opposite Lafayette Park was first broached, President Taft showed considerable interest in the architectural excellence of the design

of that structure which was to be located on a site almost directly facing the White House. Upon inquiry the Attorney General assured the President that he had full power to request the Commissions' services in the matter, and the proper authorities at that time were gotten in touch with, with a view of having the designs and plans submitted. Through financial difficulties the proposition has been hanging fire for some years, the site for the proposed structure being a large hole. Recently it seems the project has taken new life and, according to newspaper reports, Messers. Wyatt and Noelting, architects of Baltimore, Maryland, have been authorized to prepare new designs for the structure. Hearing of this Colonel Harts called to their attention the expressed wishes of the President in the matter. He received a reply thanking him for the Commissions' interest but committing themselves in no way to a submission of the design. Colonel Harts read the letter received. The members felt that nothing more could be done under the circumstances.

SCHOOL ARCHITECTURE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Colonel Harts brought up for discussion the question of the type of architecture used in school buildings constructed in the District of Columbia against which the Commission had entered such a vigorous protest in a recent letter to the District Commissioners. He stated that he had been talking with the Engineer Commissioner on this subject and that the latter expressed himself in favor of the Colonial type; but that he had not found it practicable to use it because the fenestration in the Colonial type was not as satisfactory as that used in the Elizabethan. Colonel Harts stated that Colonel Kutz had expressed his willingness to consider this matter with the Commission and that if they could show him suitable designs he would endeavor to cooperate with them. The members agreed that they should look around for examples of buildings constructed in the Colonial style which they could lay before the District Commissioners at their next meeting.

MONUMENTS IN ARLINGTON CEMETERY.

In a recent communication to the Commission the Quartermaster General of the Army stated that he had followed the various recommendations made by them with respect to Arlington. With reference to the restriction in the size and design of monuments he stated:

"A number of photographs had been taken of monuments of different designs already erected in Arlington which are thought to be in good taste and prepared (copies of which are in your office) and which might be passed upon by the Fine Arts Commission, and this office advised what, if any, objection to them exists. Additional photographs could if necessary be taken of other monuments in that Cemetery for use of the Commission."

It was decided that the best way to help the Quartermaster General under the circumstances would be for the individual members to look around for examples of such monuments which they might consider in point, and that even an inspection of Arlington Cemetery might show better examples than those selected by the Quartermaster General, the understanding being that each member would bring what examples of good tombstone design he can find so that there may be something concrete upon which to base suggestions. This matter was held over until the next meeting.

BOTANIC GARDEN REPORT.

Mr. Moore read a letter which he had prepared for transmittal to Chairman Slayden of the House Committee on the Library reporting upon Senator Gellinger's bill proposing to extend the Botanic Garden westward into East and West Senon Parks. Mr. Moore's draft was approved, and accepted as the report of the Commission.

Approved:

Charles Moore
Chairman.

John H. Hart

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

